## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

## Listing of the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended) A self-cleansing system that performs routine and cyclical, self-cleansing activities without waiting for or detecting a system failure comprising:

    a)   at least two subsystems, said at least two subsystems including an active subsystem and at least one available inactive subsystem;

    b)   a communications link connecting said at least two subsystems;

    c)   a local network capable of connecting said at least two subsystems to an external network;

    d)   an arbitration mechanism capable of designating one of said at least one available inactive subsystem to be a designated active system;

    e)   an IP address shared by at least said active subsystem and said designated active subsystem, only said active subsystem utilizing said IP address to output information to said external network;

    f)   a transfer mechanism capable of:

        i)     deactivating said active subsystem, causing said active subsystem to become a deactivated subsystem; and

        ii)    activating said designated active subsystem, causing said designated active subsystem to become said active subsystem; and

    g)   a self-cleansing mechanism capable of cleansing said deactivated subsystem, causing said deactivated subsystem to become one of said at least one available inactive subsystem.

Claim 2 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said arbitration mechanism uses a

criterion to select which of said at least one available inactive subsystem is to be designated

said designated active subsystem.

Claim 3 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said transfer mechanism is activated

by a transfer criterion.

Claim 4 (original) A system according to claim 3, wherein said transfer criterion is a fault

detection criterion.

Claim 5 (original) A system according to claim 3, wherein said transfer criterion is an intrusion

detection criterion.

Claim 6 (original) A system according to claim 3, wherein said transfer criterion considers time.

Claim 7 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said at least two

subsystems are firewalls.

Claim 8 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said at least two

subsystems are servers.

Claim 9 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said at least two

subsystems are gateways.

Claim 10 (original) A system according to claim 1, further including an integrity check

capability.

Claim 11 (original) A system according to claim 1, further including an audit capability.

Claim 12 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said self-cleansing mechanism

includes a capability to reboot at least one of said at least two subsystems.

Claim 13 (original) A system according to claim 1, further including shared storage accessible by

at least two of said at least two subsystems.

Claim 14 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said communications link is part of

said local network.

Claim 15 (original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said active subsystem is a plurality

of active subsystems.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A method of self-cleansing a system <u>by performing routine and

cyclical, self-cleansing activities without waiting for or detecting a system failure</u> comprising

the iterative steps of:

a)     designating one of at least one available inactive subsystem to be a designated active subsystem, said at least one available inactive subsystem being part of at least two subsystems, said at least two subsystems:

      i)        include an active subsystem;

      ii)       are connected by a communications link;

      iii)      are capable of sharing an IP address; and

      iv)      are connected to a local network that is capable of connecting to an external network;

b)     when a transfer criterion is satisfied:

      i)        deactivating said active subsystem, causing said active subsystem to become a deactivated subsystem; and

      ii)       activating said designated active subsystem, causing said designated active subsystem to become said active subsystem; and

c)     cleansing said deactivated subsystem, causing said deactivated subsystem to become one of said at least one available inactive subsystem;

wherein only said active subsystem utilizes said IP address to output information to said external network.

Claim 17 (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said step of designating one of at least two subsystems to be a designated active subsystem uses a criterion to select which of said at least one available inactive subsystem is to be designated said designated active subsystem.

Claim 18 (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said transfer criterion is a fault

detection criterion.


Claim 19 (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said transfer criterion is an

intrusion detection criterion.


Claim 20 (original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said transfer criterion considers

time.


Claim 21 (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein at least two of said at least two

subsystems are firewalls.


Claim 22 (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein at least two of said at least two

subsystems are servers.


Claim 23 (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein at least two of said at least two

subsystems are gateways.


Claim 24 (original) A method according to claim 16, further including the step of checking the

integrity of at least one of said deactivated subsystem.


Claim 25 (original) A method according to claim 16, further including the step of auditing said

system cleansing actions.

Claim 26 (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said step of cleansing said

deactivated subsystem includes rebooting said deactivated subsystems.

Claim 27 (original) A method according to claim 16, wherein said active subsystem is a plurality

of active subsystems.